

REMARKS

Claims 7-8 were pending and under consideration, claims 1-6 having been cancelled, and claims 9-11 having been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action of November 2, 2006, claim 7-8 were rejected as anticipated by Honda et al., USP 5708543. Additionally, amendment of various figures to include the legend "Prior Art" was requested and a minor objection to claim 7 was raised..

In response, the Figures 9A, 9B and 10 and claim 7 have been amended as requested to overcome the objections. Claim 7 also has been amended to clarify the invention.

Regarding the alleged anticipation of claims 7-8 by Honda et al., the claims clearly distinguish over the cited art.

In relevant part, claim 7 recites (emphasis added):

forming a groove at each end portion of the slide contact plane other than at the end faces of the magnetic core halves; and

forming a nonmagnetic portion by filling the grooves with a non-magnetic glass material so that the end portions of the slide contact plane are comprised of the non-magnetic glass material

The amendment makes clear that the resulting magnetic head has a non-magnetic portion formed at each outer end portion of the slide contact plane other than at the end faces of the core halves. This means that the slide contact surface in part necessarily is comprised of the non-magnetic glass material. See items 8 in each of Figures 1 and 3-8.

This is clearly unlike *Honda et al.*, where the nonmagnetic portions 5 are next to the nonmagnetic gap g. The grooves 12 of *Honda et al.* are not formed anywhere near the outer end portions of the slide contact planes, but rather near the magnetic gap as is clearly shown by the cross cut lines a-c in *Honda et al.* Figure 7. The grooves 17 (Figure 7) or 8 (Figure 1) are formed below the level of the slide contact plane and thus the slide contact plane is never made up in part of a non-magnetic glass material at its outer end portions. There simply is no disclosure of a head such as that claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Since claims 9-11 are more narrowly draft than claims 7-8, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined and allowed as well. In that regard, claim 9 has been amended to follow the changes made to claim 7.

The application now being in condition for allowance, notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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